



# THE VAMONOS NEWSLETTER

## *Dear Friends and Family,*

We thank you all for cards, donations and phone calls during Christmas. We hope you all had a blessed Christmas. Our granddaughter, Alicen, and grandson, Isaiah, came home from Michigan State University. Alicen graduated the first part of December. She now has a job as a nurse's assistant as she hopes to continue on to medical school and to become a doctor some day. Our grandson, Clint, came home from UT Austin and Cody was here Christmas day. He works in the restaurant business and will probably go back to college this year. Our daughter, Julie, and son-in-law, Mark, were also with us Christmas day.

Two weeks before Christmas, we took all the gifts and money that were sent for the churches we work with. This year we provided gifts and food for four churches. A couple of weeks ago, we were at the churches and were given several pictures of the kids having fun and taking part in the many activities they had planned, at El Camino Church in Colonia Quince de Enero, El Sendero in Colonia Pedro J. Mendez and Iglesias Luz Divina on Colonia Penal Dos. So many of you have provided gifts over the years so the churches can give each child a gift and also serve food and play games. These Christmas events are doubly important, as they draw many people in the community that don't attend church. This gives the pastor an opportunity to also use them as an evangelical tool. He can invite the new people and then share the gospel with them.



Christmas at El Camino, complete with jumping castle! The event always has a brief praise and worship service.



In Colonia Pedro J. Mendez, Pastor Antonio and his wife, Mary, are doing a phenomenal job, as is evident from this turnout from the community



It's always good to see the smiling, happy faces of the children, as they receive their gifts.



The side of Desiderio's house badly needs repair

We have several groups coming down this year to help pastors. Pastor Desiderio needs help on his home. The roof is leaking and one side of his house is falling down. The house is old and was built out of wood by a Baptist mission team about 18 years ago. We are surprised that it has lasted this long. Wood construction is not good in Mexico because of the weather and up keep of roads and and yards. Also most of our pastors don't have money for good materials, so maintenance is often neglected. Our friends from First Presbyterian in Anna, Illinois will be here in February to do the repairs. They are among "the faithful" who have never allowed unwarranted fears to stop

them from being obedient to God and going where He leads them.

Another project we hope to get done is in Colonia Pedro J. Mendez . Aaron pastored his third church there. The people were very poor. They were also very friendly and grateful for any help we could give. We brought many to help build the church 20 years ago. We used wood as we thought it would be temporary. A few years later, another wood building was constructed, but, on a concrete floor. It became the church, and the original building was used for feeding children before they went to school, and for children's classes and church activities. Then about 15 years ago, a Methodist group from up north came one winter and built a big concrete church. The second building became the fellowship hall, and the original, wooden building became the pastor's residence. A pastor came to lead the church and his family lived there. That pastor was moved to another city and another pastor came. He his wife and two sons lived in the same place. The old building is in bad shape. We were going help the pastor build a cement home over the last few years, but, that was when fear of cartels hit, and very few churches came.

Last year, a new pastor came and took over leadership of the church. His name is Antonio, and his wife is Mary. They are totally dedicated to the church and community. Mary works with the food bank in Reynosa and is able to feed breakfast to 180 children and adults a day. Vamonos began financially supporting the program in December. The people eat in the concrete building that was built and has been used by the Feed My Sheep program in the past. Before Mary and Antonio came, there were about 10 people attending the church. Now it is full.

So, now we are ready to help build a place for Pastor Antonio, his wife, Mary, their daughter and grandson. Please pray for the groups that are coming. We have two groups coming in March, and one (maybe 2) in July. We will be laying a concrete floor in February in

preparation for the construction. The pastor and some of the church members have already begun digging for the foundation. As always, on a project like this, funding is an issue. Although final numbers have not been calculated, will probably need about \$10,000 for the entire project. We have had a donation to go toward the the materials for the floor, and groups will provide some construction money, but, we are sure we will be a few thousand short. We will just do as much as we can do with the available funds, then wait for the support of funds to come. As always, we will be conducting Vacation Bible School at the church each day while the house is being built by the various groups that come.

If you want to come and help the groups let us know. You don't have to wait for your church to come, you can come help with another group. You also don't need a large group to come. Give us a call if you are interested in helping. We go to Mexico every month never have we been afraid. Also, if you,



**Pastor Antonio works on the foundation for his new home.**

your church or even a small group would like to help financially, just send a check and write "Pastor's house" in the note section.

Things continue to go well at the camp. There are Mexican church groups using the facility just about every weekend through April. The only time they aren't there is when we have American teams there in February and March.

Sylvia is still having chemotherapy treatments. They go to Monterrey every three weeks. She is feeling good, but gets tired a few days after the chemo. She has one more treatment left in two weeks, and, at that time she will be re-evaluated to see if additional treatment will be needed. Thank for your prayers.

We hope to hear from a lot of you about praying for the home for Antonio and the repairs on Desiderio's. We would also love to see you come on down and get your hands dirty!

## *Thank you, Lord*

Good prognosis for Sylvia's chemo treatments. She has one more treatment and then will be evaluated to see if further treatment is needed.

For groups willing to come to Reynosa to serve where the needs are.

The generosity of the Americans who donated funds for the various children's parties.

Still no evidence of Mexican violence for the American groups.

## *Please Pray with us*

Please continue to keep Sylvia in your prayers as she continues to receive more chemo treatments.

That Americans will get over their unwarranted fear and return to serve the people of Reynosa.

That we will be able to continue helping our friend Gela in her house and financial difficulties.

# *Dios le bendiga*

*George and Jan*

Vamonos Community Ministries  
3422 Foxbriar Lane  
Cibolo, Texas 78108  
(830)37-1162 or (830)237-1661